

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-8. Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,128,842 to Kenmochi (hereinafter "Kenmochi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,278,887 to Son et al. (hereinafter "Son"). Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,975,711 to Parker et al. (hereinafter "Parker") in view of Son. Claim 1 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,512,718 to Larose (hereinafter "Larose") in view of Son. In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to clarify the distinguishing features of the present invention.

Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the references of Kenmochi, Parker and Larose each disclose the elements of independent claim 1, except that these references fail to teach lighting the buttons when any one of a plurality of buttons is pushed on. However, the Examiner alleges that Son teaches this feature, and thus, the combination of Son with any of the above references renders the present invention obvious.

In the response to the previous Office Action, independent claim 1 was amended to recite that the light emitting element is located under a plurality of input buttons. The Examiner, in response, states that the light source in the present application is clearly under the housing and does not need to be directly under a key, but generally under a group of keys. Thus, the Examiner finds this argument unpersuasive.

In the present invention, as seen in Fig. 3, a surface of the resin 8 defines an illumination plane 2 which transmits or reflects the light from the light emitting element, or LED 7. Further,

as shown in Fig. 10, a first transmission light 15 is directed onto the center of the incidence portion 5 and transmitted through the illumination plane 2. A second transmission light 14 is reflected once on the illumination plane 2, and thereafter transmitted through the illumination plane 2. Finally, a progressing light 13 progresses within the resin 8 by reflection or diffusion, and then transmits through the illumination plane 2 at the projecting portion 6.

Therefore, in response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the features of an illumination plane that transmits or reflects the light from the light emitting element, a first transmission light directed onto the center of the incidence portion and transmitted through the illumination plane, a second transmission light reflected once on the illumination plane and thereafter transmitting through the illumination plane, and a progressing light which progresses within the buttons by reflection or diffusion and transmits through the illumination plane at the projecting portion. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification, and specifically, in Fig. 10, and page 9, line 28 – page 10 line 13. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by way of the amendment to the specification.

In Kenmochi, as taught in Col. 3, line 3 – 19, light radiates from light emitters 4 which are located at one side of the light-transmitting thin plate 1 at predetermined distances. The transmitting plate 1 is completely enclosed enabling the light to reflect repeatedly between the top 1b and bottom 1a surfaces on the plate. The concave reflecting sections 2 on the bottom surface 1a of the plate 1, reflect and concentrate the radiated light onto the top surface 1b of the plate 1. On the top surface 1b of the thin plate 1, the light experiences total reflection so that no light goes through outside. Thus, Kenmochi cannot have a first transmission light transmitted through an incidence portion, a second transmission light reflect once and then transmitted, and a

progressing light that progresses through the button and is then transmitted at a projecting portion. Kenmochi provides for the light to experience total reflection on the top surface of the plate, so that no light is transmitted.

Parker, in Fig. 7, only teaches that on the bottom surface 66 of the panel 63 directly opposite the conductive trace 61 are deformities 64, for causing a portion of the light to be directed back through the panel and emitted from the light emitting area 65 immediately behind the LCD 5 in a predetermined pattern. This is the only reflectance shown by Parker. It completely fails to show a first transmission light transmitted through a center of an incidence portion and transmitted through an illumination plane, a second transmission light reflect once and then transmitted, and a progressing light that progresses through the button and is then transmitted at a projecting portion.

Larose is completely different from the present invention. Larose, in the drawing, shows a light source 14 and a reflective surface 30. The light is reflected once and then transmitted upward through the button 12. Larose completely fails to show a first transmission light, a second transmission light, and a progressing light as recited and claimed in the present invention.

It has been held by the Courts that to establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). As the cited references of Kenmochi, Parker, Larose and Son, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the elements of amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claim 1 are improper.

Regarding the rejection of dependent claims 2-8, it must be noted that the dependent claims recite additional unique elements and/or limitations, and therefore, these claims remain